

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-32 canceled.

33. (currently amended) A method for ~~filtering information including information data and one or more keywords attached to the information data~~ producing a keyword dictionary using a computer, comprising the steps of:

inputting a user's necessity or a user's non-necessity for each of pieces of information data;

calculating a prediction value predicting a user's necessity degree for the indicated information data on the basis of a user's input showing that the indicated information data are necessary or unnecessary for the user for each of a plurality of keywords attached to the pieces of information data according to the user's necessities and the user's non-necessities for the pieces of information data and the keywords attached to the pieces of information data;
and

assigning [[the]] each calculated prediction value to [[each of the keywords]] the corresponding keyword.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 33, wherein the prediction value assigned to each keyword takes either a positive value or a negative value.

35. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of calculating the prediction value includes the step of calculating [[the]] each prediction value assigned to [[each]] the corresponding keyword is calculated on the basis of: a first frequency, at which the user shows that the information data included in the information to which each keyword is attached are necessary; and a second frequency, at which the user shows that the information data included in the information to which each keyword is attached are unnecessary from information of keywords attached to one or more pieces of information data, for which the user's necessities are inputted, and

information of keywords attached to the other pieces of information data for which the user's non-necessities are inputted.

36. (previously presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the prediction value assigned to each keyword takes either a positive value or a negative value.

37. (currently amended) The method of claim 33, wherein the step of calculating the prediction value includes the step of calculating [[the]] each prediction value assigned to [[each]] the corresponding keyword is calculated on the basis of: a first frequency, at which the user provides an input showing that the indicated information data are necessary; a second frequency, at which the user provides an input showing that the indicated information data are unnecessary; a third frequency, at which the user shows that the information data included in the information to which each keyword is attached are necessary; and a fourth frequency, at which the user shows that the information data included in the information to which each keyword is attached are unnecessary from a frequency of the user's necessities for the pieces of information data, a frequency of the user's non-necessities for the pieces of information data, information of keywords attached to one or more pieces of information data for which the user's necessities are inputted, and information of keywords attached to the other pieces of information data for which the user's non-necessities are inputted.

38. (previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the prediction value assigned to each keyword takes either a positive value or a negative value

39. (new) The method of claim 33, further including the step of registering each prediction value with the corresponding keyword to a dictionary.

40. (new) The method of claim 35, wherein the information of the keywords relating to the user's necessities indicates a frequency of necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data, and the information of the keywords relating to the user's non-necessities indicates a frequency of non-necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data.

41. (new) The method of claim 37, wherein the information of the keywords relating to the user's necessities indicates a frequency of necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data, and the information of the keywords relating to the user's non-necessities indicates a frequency of non-necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data.

42. (new) An apparatus for producing a keyword dictionary involving a computer, comprising:

input means for inputting a user's necessity or a user's non-necessity for each of pieces of information data;

calculating means for calculating a prediction value predicting a user's necessity degree for each of a plurality of keywords attached to the pieces of information data according to the user's necessities and the user's non-necessities inputted to the input means for the pieces of information data and the keywords attached to the pieces of information data; and

assigning means for assigning each prediction value calculated by the calculating means to the corresponding keyword.

43. (new) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein each prediction value assigned to the corresponding keyword by the assigning means takes a positive value or a negative value.

44. (new) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein each prediction value assigned to the corresponding keyword is calculated from information of

keywords attached to one or more pieces of information data, for which the user's necessities are inputted, and information of keywords attached to the other pieces of information data for which the user's non-necessities are inputted.

45. (new) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein each prediction value assigned to the corresponding keyword by the assigning means takes a positive value or a negative value.

46. (new) The apparatus of claim 42, wherein each prediction value assigned to the corresponding keyword is calculated from a frequency of the user's necessities for the pieces of information data, a frequency of the user's non-necessities for the pieces of information data, information of keywords attached to one or more pieces of information data for which the user's necessities are inputted, and information of keywords attached to the other pieces of information data for which the user's non-necessities are inputted.

47. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein each prediction value assigned to the corresponding keyword by the assigning means takes a positive value or a negative value.

48. (new) The apparatus of claim 44, wherein the information of the keywords relating to the user's necessities indicates a frequency of necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data, and the information of the keywords relating to the user's non-necessities indicates a frequency of non-necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data.

49. (new) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the information of the keywords relating to the user's necessities indicates a frequency of necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data, and the information

of the keywords relating to the user's non-necessities indicates a frequency of non-necessities for each keyword attached to the pieces of information data.

50. (new) The apparatus of claim 42, further comprising:
a dictionary for registering each prediction value with the corresponding keyword to a dictionary.